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**APPLICATION  
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**TITLE:** PROGRAMMABLE LOW-POWER HIGH-  
FREQUENCY DIVIDER

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# **PROGRAMMABLE LOW-POWER HIGH-FREQUENCY DIVIDER**

## **FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

The present invention relates to the field of integrated circuits; more specifically, it relates to programmable high-frequency divider circuit with low power consumption.

## **BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

Computer systems employ data input, storage, processing and output integrated circuits. In order to assure proper operation of these circuits, they often need to be time-domain synchronized. In order to provide such synchronization, computer systems typically employ clock circuits for synchronizing the data transfer and process timing of these circuits. Synchronization of these circuits in modern high-performance and low-power computers requires several clock signals of varying frequency that themselves must be synchronized to one another. It is not a trivial undertaking to design such clock circuits that operate at multiple frequencies, with high-speed and with low power consumption.

## **SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

A first aspect of the present invention is a fast latch comprising: a NAND stage adapted to receive a clock signal and a data input signal; a clocked inverter stage, a first input of the clocked inverter stage coupled to the output of the NAND stage and a second input of the clocked inverter stage coupled to the clock signal; a first inverter stage, a first

input of the first inverter stage coupled to an output of the clocked inverter and a second input of the first inverter stage coupled to a reset signal; and a second inverter stage, having an output, an input of the second inverter stage coupled to an output of the first inverter stage.

5           A second aspect of the present invention is a frequency divider generating an output clock signal, comprising: a one-shot generator, an input of the one-shot generator coupled to an input clock signal and an output of the one shot generator coupled to clock inputs of at least two latches, the latches arranged as a shift register, a data output of a previous latch of the shift register coupled to a data input of a following latch of the shift register and a data output of a last latch of the shift register coupled to a data input of a first latch of the shift register; an output of the frequency divider coupled to the output of a next to last latch of the shift register; and wherein, the frequency of the output clock signal is a function of the frequency of the input clock signal and the number of the latches.

10           A third aspect of the present invention is a programmable frequency divider, comprising: a multiplicity of frequency dividers each generating a different output clock signal, each comprising: a one-shot generator, an input of the one-shot generator coupled to an input clock signal and an output of the one shot generator coupled to clock inputs of at least two latches, the latches arranged as a shift register, a data output of a previous latch of the shift register coupled to a data input of a following latch of the shift register and a data output of a last latch of the shift register coupled to a data input of a first latch of the shift register; an output of the frequency divider coupled to the output of a next to

last latch of the shift register; and wherein, the frequency of each output clock signal is a function of the frequency of the input clock signal and the number of the latches in each frequency divider; wherein the number of latches in each frequency divider is different; means for generating a different reset signal for each frequency divider; and means for  
5 selecting and coupling one the output clock signal of one the frequency divider to a clock output of the programmable divider.

A fourth aspect of the present invention is a divide by 2 frequency divider comprising: identical first set and second sets of cascaded of FETs, each set adapted to receive an input clock signal and an inverted version of the input clock signal; and a first  
10 inverter, the gate of a PFET of the first inverter coupled to an output of the first set of cascaded FETs, the gate of an NFET of the first inverter coupled to an output of the second set of cascaded FETs, an output of the first inverter coupled to an output of the frequency divider and to inputs of the first and second sets of cascaded FETs.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

15 The features of the invention are set forth in the appended claims. The invention itself, however, will be best understood by reference to the following detailed description of an illustrative embodiment when read in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, wherein:

FIG. 1 is a schematic diagram of an exemplary programmable frequency divider  
20 according to the present invention;

FIG. 2A is a schematic diagram of a first type divide by 3 or frequency divider circuit according to the present invention;

FIG. 2B is a schematic diagram of a second type divide by 3 or 4 frequency divider circuit according to the present invention;

5           FIG. 3 is a schematic diagram of a divide by 5 or 6 frequency divider circuit according to the present invention;

FIG. 4 is a schematic diagram of a divide by 7 or 8 frequency divider circuit according to the present invention;

10           FIG. 5 is a schematic diagram of a divide by 9 or 10 frequency divider circuit according to the present invention;

FIG. 6A is a schematic diagram of a one-shot pulse generator according to the present invention;

FIG. 6B is a timing diagram of the one-shot generator of FIG. 6A;

15           FIG. 7A is a schematic diagram of a clock duty cycle correction circuit according to the present invention;

FIG. 7B is a timing diagram of the clock duty cycle correction circuit of FIG. 7A;

FIG. 8 is a schematic diagram of a fast latch according to the present invention;  
and

20           FIG. 9 is a schematic a schematic diagram of a frequency a divide by 2 frequency divider circuit according to the present invention.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Unless otherwise noted it should be understood that when a signal is described as divided by a number, it is meant that the frequency of the signal is divided by that number. The present invention utilizes a unique circuit for dividing frequencies by two, two different types of circuits for dividing frequencies by three or four and a homologous set of circuits for frequency division above two (the second type of circuit for dividing by three or four is the lowest member of this set of homologous circuits). Unless otherwise stated a signal described as low or zero (0) is a logical 0 and a signal described as a high or one (1) is a logical 1. Transitions from 1 to 0 (high to low) or 0 to 1 (low to high) are similarly defined as logical transitions. The term fast latch refers to a novel latch of the present invention. The fast latch of the present invention has low power consumption and very fast latching speed and is illustrated in FIG. 8 and described *infra*.

FIG. 1 is a schematic diagram of an exemplary programmable frequency divider according to the present invention. A frequency divide circuit produces an output clock signal numerically equal to the frequency of an input clock signal divided by a fixed number, often a whole positive integer. In FIG. 1, a programmable frequency divider circuit **100** for outputting an output clock signal DIVCLK based on inputted clock signals CLKIN and CLKINB includes a reset generator **105**, a divide frequency by two circuit (2divider) **110**, a divide frequency by three or four circuit (3/4divider) **115**, divide frequency by five or six circuit (5/6 divider) **120**, a divide frequency by seven or eight circuit (7/8divider) **125**, a divide frequency by nine or ten circuit (9/10divider) **130** and an inverting multiplexer **135**. The number of frequency divider circuits is exemplary and

more or less may be used and the numerical division of frequency may be changed as well. The notation CLKINB denotes the complement of CLKIN.

Reset generator **105** is coupled to an external reset signal EXT RESET for resetting the state of programmable frequency divider circuit **100** and a four-bit SELECT signal (having bits BIT1, BIT2, BIT3 and BIT4) for selecting the divide value that the frequency of CLKIN is to be divided by. Reset generator **105** generates a RESET2 signal coupled to a RESET input of 2 divider **110**, a RESET3/4 signal coupled to a RESET input of 3/4 divider **115**, a RESET5/6 signal coupled to a RESET input of 5/6 divider **120**, a RESET7/8 signal coupled to a RESET input of 7/8 divider **125** and a RESET9/10 signal coupled to a RESET input of 9/10 divider **130**. CLKIN is coupled to respective CLKIN inputs of 2 divider **110**, 3/4 divider **115**, 5/6 divider **120**, 7/8 divider **125** and 9/10 divider **130**. CLKINB is coupled to respective CLKINB inputs of 2 divider **110** and 3/4 divider **115** (when 3/4 divider **115** is of the type illustrated in FIG. 2A and described *infra*). There is no CLKINB input to 3/4 divider **115** is of the type illustrated in FIG. 2B and described *infra*. BIT 1 of SELECT is coupled to respective CNTRL inputs of 3/4 divider **115**, 5/6 divider **120**, 7/8 divider **125** and 9/10 divider **130**. The function of the EXT RESET signal is described *infra*.

A CLKOUT2 signal from 2 divider **110** is coupled to a first input of inverting multiplexer **135**. CLKOUT2 has a frequency of half that of CLKIN. CLKOUT3 signal from 3/4 divider **115** is coupled to a second input of inverting multiplexer **135** and a CLKOUT4 signal from 3/4 divider **115** is coupled to a third input of inverting

multiplexer **135**. CLKOUT3 has a frequency of one third and CLKOUT4 has a frequency

of one quarter the frequency of CLKIN. A CLKOUT5/6 signal from 5/6 divider **120** is coupled to a fourth input of inverting multiplexer **135**. CLKOUT5/6 has a frequency of one fifth or one sixth that of CLKIN depending on whether BIT1 is a one or a zero. A CLKOUT7/8 signal from 7/8 divider **125** is coupled to a fifth input of inverting multiplexer **135**. CLKOUT7/8 has a frequency of one seventh or one eighth that of CLKIN depending on whether BIT1 is a one or a zero. A CLKOUT9/10 signal from 9/10 divider **130** is coupled to a sixth input of inverting multiplexer **135**. CLKOUT9/10 has a frequency of one ninth or one tenth that of CLKIN depending on whether BIT1 is a one or a zero.

Switching inputs of inverting multiplexer **135** are coupled to the SELECT signal. The output of inverting multiplexer **135**, DIVCLK is either CLKOUT2, CLKOUT3, CLKOUT4, CLKOUT5/6, CLKOUT7/8 or CLKOUT 9/10 based on the value of the bits in the SELECT signal. BIT1 also determines whether CLKOUT 5/6 is CLKIN divided by 5 or CLKIN divided by 6, whether CLKOUT7/8 is CLKIN divided by 7 or CLKIN divided by 8 and whether CLKOUT9/10 is CLKIN divided by 9 or CLKIN divided by 10. It should be understood that the output of 3/4 divider **115** is CLKOUT3 and CLKOUT4 when 3/4 divider **115** is of the first type, but the output of 3/4 divider **115** its output is a CLKOUT3/4 signal when 3/4 divider **115** is of the second type.

In one example, CLKIN has a frequency of about 4200 MHz or less and programmable frequency divider circuit **100** runs using a supply voltage (VCC) as low as about 1.15 volts. TABLE I illustrates the value of the frequency of DIVCLK as a



function of the value of the frequency of CLKIN based on the values of the bits in the SELECT signal.

TABLE I

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BIT1	BIT2	BIT3	BIT4	DIVCLK
0	1	1	0	CLKIN/2
1	0	1	0	CLKIN/3
0	0	1	0	CLKIN/4
1	1	0	0	CLKIN/5
0	1	0	0	CLKIN/6
1	0	0	0	CLKIN/7
0	0	0	0	CLKIN/8
1	0	0	1	CLKIN/9
0	0	0	1	CLKIN/10

FIG. 2A is a schematic diagram of a first type divide by 3 or 4 frequency divider circuit according to the present invention. In FIG. 2A, 3/4 divider **115** is comprised of two interconnected similar circuits, a first section **140A** and a second section **140B**.

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First section **140A** includes an inverting multiplexer **145A**, a one-shot generator **150A** and two fast latches **155A** and **160A**. The select input of inverting multiplexer **145A** is coupled to RESET3/4, a first input of the inverting multiplexer is coupled to ground and a second input of the inverting multiplexer is coupled to CLKIN. When RESET3/4 is high, the output of inverting multiplexer **145A** is high and CLKOUT4 is low saving power. When RESET3/4 is low, the output of inverting multiplexer **145A** is inverted CLKIN. The output of inverting multiplexer **145A** is coupled to the input of one-shot generator **150A** which generates an OUT1 signal coupled to the clock (C) input of fast latch **155A** and an OUT2 signal coupled to the C input of fast latch **160A**. One-

shot generator **150A** is illustrated in FIG. 6A and OUT1 and OUT2 are identical signals illustrated in FIG. 6B and described *infra*. One-shot generator **150A** has two outputs in order to increase drive. RESET is coupled to the RESET input of fast latches **155A** and **160A**. The output (Q) of fast latch **155A** is coupled to the data (D) input of fast latch **160A** through invertors **I1A** and **I2A** and to a first input of NAND gate **N1A**. The output of fast latch **160A** is coupled to the input of inverter **I3A**. The output of inverter **I3A** is coupled to a first input of NAND gate **N2A** and to a first input of NAND gate **N3A** through series inverters **I5A** and **I6A**. BIT1 is coupled to a second input of NAND gate **N1A** and the output of NAND gate **N1A** is coupled to a second input of NAND gate **N2A**. The output of NAND gate **N2A** is coupled to the data input of fast latch **155A** through inverter **I4A**. A second input of NAND gate **N3A** is coupled to VCC and the output of NAND gate **N3A** passed through series inverters **I7A** and **I8A** to generate CLKOUT4.

Second section **140B** includes an inverting multiplexer **145B**, a one-shot generator **150B** and two fast latches **155B** and **160B**. The select input of inverting multiplexer **145B** is coupled to RESET3/4, a first input of the inverting multiplexer is coupled to ground and a second input of the inverting multiplexer is coupled to CLKINB. When RESET3/4 is high, the output of inverting multiplexer **145B** is high and CLKOUT3 is low saving power. When RESET3/4 is low, the output of inverting multiplexer **145B** is inverted CLKINB. The output of inverting multiplexer **145B** is coupled to the input of one-shot generator **150B** which generates an OUT1 signal coupled to the C input of fast latch **155B** and an OUT2 signal coupled to the C input of fast latch **160B**. One-shot

generator **150B** is illustrated in FIG. 6A and OUT1 and OUT2 are identical signals illustrated in FIG. 6B and described *infra*. One-shot generator **150B** has two outputs in order to increase drive. RESET is coupled to the RESET input of fast latches **155B** and **160B**. The output Q of fast latch **155B** is coupled to the D input of fast latch **160B** through invertors **I1B** and **I2B** and to a first input of NAND gate **N1B**. The output of fast latch **160B** is coupled to the input of inverter **I3B**. The output of inverter **I3B** is coupled to a first input of NAND gate **N2B** and to a first input of NAND gate **N3B** through series invertors **I5B** and **I6B**. BIT1 is coupled to a second input of NAND gate **N1B** and the output of NAND gate **N1B** is coupled to a second input of NAND gate **N2B**. The output of NAND gate **N2B** is coupled to the data input of fast latch **155B** through inverter **I4B**. A second input of NAND gate **N3B** is coupled to the output of inverter **I6A** and the output of NAND gate **N3B** passed through series invertors **I7B** and **I8B** to generate CLKOUT3.

One-shot generator **150A** generates a clock pulse of user defined length on the rising edge (transition from 0 to 1) of CLKIN and one shot generator **150B** generates the same user defined length pulse on the rising edge of CLKINB which is the falling edge (transition from 1 to 0) of CLKIN. The pair of fast latches **155A** and **160A** (**155B** and **160B**) connected as a shift register provide a divide by 3 or 4 depending on the value of BIT1. NAND gates **N1A(B)** and **N2A(B)** couple the output of fast latches **155A(B)** and **160A(B)** to the input of fast latch **155A(B)**. For a divide by 3, BIT1 is set to 1, causing NAND gates **N1A(B)** and **N2A(B)** to act as a NAND gate with a first input from **P2A** and a second input from **P1A** (NAND gate **N1A(B)** performs the function of inverter

**I1A(B)**). For a divide by 4, **BIT1** is set to 0 causing NAND gate **N2A(B)** to act as an inverter, inverting **P2A(B)**. The two sections **140A** and **140B** latching on opposite edges of **CLKIN** provides automatic duty cycle correction via NAND gate **N3B** because **P2A** and **P2B** are shifted exactly half a cycle (of **CLKIN**) apart. Duty cycle correction is illustrated in FIG 7B and described *infra*. Note, the separate **CLKOUT3** and **CLKOUT4** provide increased drive versus a shared **CLK3/4** output which is important in high speed circuits. Insufficient drive or high current loading can slow a circuit down.

In TABLE II, there are only three combinations of logical states of nodes **P1A/B** and **P2A/B** when **BIT1** is a 1 and four combinations of logical states when **BIT1** is a 0. The states are presented in the sequence they appear as the shift register cycles. Only one cycle is shown. The number of different possible states corresponds to the amount by which the frequency of **CLKIN** is divided.

TABLE II

	Divide by 3		Divide by 4	
State/Node	P1A/B	P2A/B	P1A/B	P2A/B
1	1	1	1	1
2	0	1	0	1
3	1	0	0	0
4			1	1

FIG. 2B is a schematic diagram of a second type divide by 3 or 4 frequency divider circuit according to the present invention. In FIG. 2B, 3/4 divider **115** includes an inverting multiplexer **165**, a one-shot generator **170**, two fast latches **175** and **180** and a duty cycle correction circuit **185**. The select input of inverting multiplexer **165** is coupled

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to RESET3/4, a first input of the inverting multiplexer is coupled to ground and a second input of the inverting multiplexer is coupled to CLKIN. When RESET3/4 is high, the output of inverting multiplexer 165 is high and CLKOUT3/4 is low saving power. When RESET3/4 is low, the output of inverting multiplexer 165 is inverted CLKIN. The output of inverting multiplexer 165 is coupled to the input of one-shot generator 170 which generates an OUT1 signal coupled to the C input of fast latch 175 and an OUT2 signal coupled to the C input of fast latch 180. One-shot generator 170 is illustrated in FIG. 6A and OUT1 and OUT2 are identical signals illustrated in FIG. 6B and described *infra*. One-shot generator 170 has two outputs in order to increase drive. RESET is coupled to the RESET input of fast latches 175 and 180. The output Q of fast latch 175 is coupled to the D input of fast latch 180 through invertors I9 and I10 and to a first input of NAND gate N4. The output of fast latch 180 is coupled to the input of inverter I11. The output of inverter I11 is coupled to a first input of NAND gate N5. BIT1 is coupled to a second input of NAND gate N4 and the output of NAND gate N4 is coupled to a second input of NAND gate N5. The output of NAND gate N5 is coupled to the data input of fast latch 175 through inverter I12. The output of inverting multiplexer 165 is coupled to a CLKB input of duty cycle correction circuit 185 through series inverters I13, I14, I15, I16 and I17. A DIN input of duty cycle correction circuit 185 is coupled between the output of inverter I9 and the input of inverter I10. BIT1 is coupled to a CNTRL input of duty cycle correction circuit 185. The output of duty cycle correction circuit 185 is CLKOUT3/4. Duty cycle correction cycle is illustrated in FIG. 7A and described below.

One-shot generator **150A** generates a clock pulse of user defined length on the rising edge (transition from 0 to 1) of CLKIN. The pair of fast latches **175** and **180** connected as a shift register provide a divide by 3 or 4 depending on the value of BIT1. NAND gates **N4** and **N5** couple the outputs of fast latches **175** and **180** to the input of fast latch **175**. For a divide by 3, BIT1 is set to 1, causing NAND gates **N4** and **N5** to act as a NAND gate with a first input from **P2** and a second input from **P1** (NAND gate **N4** performs the function of inverter **I9**). For a divide by 4, BIT1 is set to 0, causing NAND gate **N5** to act as an inverter, inverting **P2**. Since duty cycle correction is only required on odd divisions of frequency (i. e. by 3, 5, 7, 9) when BIT1=1 duty cycle correction circuit **185** is in correction mode and when BIT1=0 duty cycle correction circuit **185** is in bypass mode.

FIG. 3 is a schematic diagram of a divide by 5 or 6 frequency divider circuit according to the present invention. In FIG. 3, 5/6 divider **120** includes an inverting multiplexer **190**, two one-shot generators **195A** and **195B**, three fast latches **200**, **205** and **210** arranged as a shift register and a duty cycle correction circuit **215**. The select input of inverting multiplexer **190** is coupled to RESET5/6, a first input of the inverting multiplexer is coupled to ground and a second input of the inverting multiplexer is coupled to CLKIN. When RESET5/6 is high, the output of inverting multiplexer **190** is high and CLKOUT5/6 is low saving power. When RESET5/6 is low, the output of inverting multiplexer **190** is inverted CLKIN. Note duty cycle correction circuit **215** is coupled between fast latch **205** and fast latch **210**, which are the last two latches of the shift register comprised of fast latches **200**, **205** and **210**. While two one-shot generators

are illustrated, (for increased drive) one to three could be used. It will be noticed that 5/6 divider **120** is a homologue of 3/4 divider **115** of FIG. 2A in that an additional, third fast latch has been added to the shift register with appropriate additional one-shot generator circuitry.

One-shot generators **195A** and **195B** generate a clock pulse of user defined length on the rising edge (transition from 0 to 1) of CLKIN. The three fast latches **200**, **205** and **210** connected as a shift register provide a divide by 5 or 6 depending on the value of BIT1. NAND gates **N6** and **N7** couple the output of fast latches **205** and **210** to the input of fast latch **200**. For a divide by 5, BIT1 is set to 1, causing NAND gates **N6** and **N7** act as a NAND gate with a first input from **P5** and a second input from **P4** (NAND gate **N6** performs the function of inverter **I18**). For a divide by 6, BIT1 is set to 0, causing NAND gate **N7** to act as an inverter, inverting **P5**. Since duty cycle correction is only required on odd divisions of frequency when BIT1=1 duty cycle correction circuit **215** is in correction mode and when BIT1=0 duty cycle correction circuit **215** is in bypass mode.

In TABLE III, there are only five combinations of logical states of nodes **P3**, **P4** and **P5** when BIT1 is a 1 and six combinations of logical states of nodes **P3**, **P4** and **P5** when BIT1 is a 0. The states are presented in the sequence they appear as the shift register cycles. Only one cycle is shown. The number of different possible states corresponds to the amount by which the frequency of CLKIN is divided.

TABLE III

	Divide by 5			Divide by 6		
State/Node	P3	P4	P5	P3	P4	P5

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1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	0	1	1	0	1	1
3	0	0	1	0	0	1
4	1	0	0	0	0	0
5	1	1	0	1	0	0
6				1	1	0

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FIG. 4 is a schematic diagram of a divide by 7 or 8 frequency divider circuit according to the present invention. In FIG. 4, 7/8 divider **125** includes an inverting multiplexer **220**, two one-shot generators **225A** and **225B**, four fast latches **230**, **235**, **240** and **245** arranged as a shift register and a duty cycle correction circuit **250**. The select input of inverting multiplexer **220** is coupled to RESET7/8, a first input of the inverting multiplexer is coupled to ground and a second input of the inverting multiplexer is coupled to CLKIN. When RESET7/8 is high, the output of inverting multiplexer **220** is high and CLKOUT7/8 is low saving power. When RESET7/8 is low, the output of inverting multiplexer **190** is inverted CLKIN. Note duty cycle correction circuit **250** is coupled between fast latch **240** and fast latch **245**, which are the last two latches of the shift register comprised of fast latches **230**, **235**, **240** and **245**. While two one-shot generators are illustrated, (for increased drive) one to four could be used. It will be noticed that 7/8 divider **125** is a homologue of 5/6 divider circuit of FIG. 3 in that an additional, fourth fast latch has been added to the shift register with appropriate additional one-shot generator circuitry.

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One-shot generators **225A** and **225B** generate a clock pulse of user defined length on the rising edge (transition from 0 to 1) of CLKIN. The four fast latches **230**, **235**, **240**



and **245** connected as a shift register provide a divide by 7 or 8 depending upon the value of BIT1. NAND gates **N8** and **N9** couple the output of fast latches **240** and **245** to the input of fast latch **230**. For a divide by 7, BIT1 is set to 1, causing NAND gates **N8** and **N9** act as a NAND gate with a first input from **P9** and a second input from **P8** (NAND gate **N8** performs the function of inverter **I29**). For a divide by 4, BIT1 is set to 0, causing NAND gate **N9** to act as an inverter, inverting **P9**. Since duty cycle correction is only required on odd divisions of frequency when BIT1=1 duty cycle correction circuit **250** is in correction mode and when BIT1=0 duty cycle correction circuit **250** is in bypass mode.

In TABLE IV, there are only seven combinations of logical states of nodes **P6**, **P7**, **P8** and **P9** when BIT1=1 and eight combinations of logical states of nodes **P6**, **P7**, **P8** and **P9** when BIT1=0. The states are presented in the sequence they appear as the shift register cycles. Only one cycle is shown. The number of different possible states corresponds to the amount by which the frequency of CLKIN is divided.

TABLE IV

	Divide by 7				Divide by 8			
State/Node	P6	P7	P8	P9	P6	P7	P8	P9
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1
3	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1
4	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
7	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0
8					1	1	1	0

FIG. 5 is a schematic diagram of a divide by 9 or 10 frequency divider circuit according to the present invention. In FIG. 5, 9/10 divider **130** includes an inverting multiplexer **255**, three one-shot generators **260A**, **260B** and **260C**, five fast latches **265**, **270**, **275**, **280** and **285** arranged as a shift register and a duty cycle correction circuit **290**.

5 The select input of inverting multiplexer **255** is coupled to RESET9/10, a first input of the inverting multiplexer is coupled to ground and a second input of the inverting multiplexer is coupled to CLKIN. When RESET9/10 is high, the output of inverting multiplexer **255** is high and CLKOUT9/10 is low saving power. When RESET9/10 is low, the output of inverting multiplexer **255** is inverted CLKIN. Note duty cycle  
10 correction circuit **290** is coupled between fast latch **280** and fast latch **285**, which are the last two latches of the shift register comprised of fast latches **265**, **270**, **275**, **280** and **285**. While three one-shot generators are illustrated, (for increased drive) one to five could be used. It will be noticed that 9/10 divider **130** is a homologue of 7/8 divider circuit of FIG. 4 in that an additional, fifth fast latch has been added to the shift register with appropriate  
15 additional one-shot generator circuitry.

One-shot generators **260A**, **260B** and **260C** generate a clock pulse of user defined length on the rising edge (transition from 0 to 1) of CLKIN. The five fast latches **265**, **270**, **275**, **280** and **285** connected as a shift register provide a divide by 9 or 10 depending upon the value of BIT1. The four fast latches **230**, **235**, **240** and **245** connected as a shift  
20 register provide a divide by 9 or 10 depending upon the value of BIT1. NAND gates **N10** and **N11** couple the output of fast latches **280** and **285** to the input of fast latch **265**. For a

divide by 9, BIT1 is set to 1, causing NAND gates **N10** and **N11** act as a NAND gate with

a first input from **P14** and a second input from **P13** (NAND gate **N10** performs the function of inverter **I42**). For a divide by 4, **BIT1** is set to 0 causing NAND gate **N11** to act as an inverter, inverting **P14**. Since duty cycle correction is only required on odd divisions of frequency when **BIT1=1** duty cycle correction circuit **290** is in correction mode and when **BIT1=0** duty cycle correction circuit **290** is in bypass mode.

In TABLE V, there are only seven combinations of logical states of nodes **P10**, **P11**, **P12**, **P13** and **P14** when **BIT1=1** and eight combinations of logical states of nodes **P10**, **P11**, **P12**, **P13** and **P14** when **BIT1=0**. The states are presented in the sequence they appear as the shift register cycles. Only one cycle is shown. The number of different possible states corresponds to the amount by which the frequency of **CLKIN** is divided.

TABLE V

Divide by 9						Divide by 10				
State/Node	P10	P11	P12	P13	P14	P10	P11	P12	P13	P14
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1
3	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1
4	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1
5	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
8	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
9	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	0
10						1	1	1	1	0

FIG. 6A is a schematic diagram of a one-shot generator **295** according to the present invention. One-shot generator **295** is exemplary of one-shot generators **150A** and **150B** of FIG. 2A, one-shot generator **170B** of FIG. 2B, one-shot generators **195A** and

195B of FIG. 3, one-shot generators 225A and 225B of FIG. 4, and one-shot generators 260A, 260B and 260C of FIG. 5. A first input a NAND gate N12 is coupled to an IN signal (which in the present invention is CLKIN or CLKINB in the case of one-shot generator 150B of FIG. 2A) and to the input of buffer B1. The output of buffer B1 is coupled to the input of buffer B2. The output of buffer B2 is coupled to the input of inverter I61. The output of inverter I61 is to the input of inverter I62. The output of inverter I62 is coupled to the input of inverter I63. The output of inverter I63 is coupled to a second input of NAND gate N12. The output of NAND gate N12 is coupled to the inputs of inverters I64 and I65. The outputs of inverters I64 and I65 are signals OUT1 and OUT2 respectively.

The propagation delay through buffers B1 and B2 and inverters I61, I62 and I63 is chosen such that OUT1 and OUT2 have a 50% duty cycle at a maximum frequency of MAXFREQ. MAXFREQ is defined as about 5 to 15% higher than the maximum allowable frequency of CLKIN (CLKINMAXFREQ) and is defined by equation 1:

$$\text{MAXFREQ} = \text{CLKINMAXFREQ} + \text{WINDOW}(\text{CLKINMAXFREQ}) \quad (1)$$

where:

MAXFREQ = maximum frequency of the one-shot generator;

CLKINMAXFREQ = maximum frequency divider circuits can operate on; and

WINDOW = 5 to 15%.

OUT1 and OUT2 will always have a high signal time duration equal to that of the high signal time duration of a clock at MAXFREQ but the low signal time duration of OUT1 and OUT 2 will be greater than the low signal time duration of a clock signal at

MAXFREQ. This is illustrated in FIG. 6B. The difference in frequency between MAXFREQ and CLKINMAXFREQ is purposeful and prevents data just shifted into a fast latch to be shifted again into the following latch on the same clock cycle of any of the frequency divider circuits described *supra*.

FIG. 6B is a timing diagram of the one-shot generator of FIG. 6A. Each cycle of a CLKIN signal at MAXFREQ = 4.545 GHz will have a high signal time duration of 0.11ns and a low signal time duration of 0.11ns and OUT1 and OUT2 will have a high signal time durations of 0.11ns and low signal time durations of 0.11ns. One cycle of a CLKIN signal at a frequency = 3.33 GHz will have a high signal time duration of 0.15ns and a low signal time duration of 0.15ns and OUT1 and OUT2 will have high signal time durations of 0.11ns and low signal time durations of 0.19ns. Each cycle of a CLKIN signal at a frequency = 2.173 GHz will have a high signal time duration of 0.23ns and a low signal time duration of 0.23ns and OUT1 and OUT2 will have high signal time durations of 0.11ns and a low signal time duration of 0.35ns. Thus, one-shot generator 295 provides a clock signal with a constant high time, which is independent of the high time of CLKIN. It should be remembered that OUT1 and OUT2 are the clock inputs to the fast latches of the divider circuits described *supra* and those latches switch on the rising clock edge as described *infra* in relation to FIG. 8. In one example, MAXFRQ is about 4.545 GHz, corresponding to a time-period of 0.22 ns. Assuming a 50% duty cycle, the on time is 0.11 ns. 0.11 ns is a short enough clock on time just sufficient to transfer data from the input of a fast latch to the output of the fast latch yet prevent data

just shifted into a fast latch to be shifted again into the following fast latch on the same CLKIN (or CLKINB) clock cycle in the frequency divider circuits described *supra*.

FIG. 7A is a schematic diagram of a clock duty cycle correction circuit **300** according to the present invention. Duty cycle correction circuit **300** is exemplary of duty cycle correction circuits **185** of FIG 2B, **215** of FIG. 3, **250** of FIG. 4 and **290** of FIG. 5. In FIG. 7A, clock duty cycle circuit **300** includes a fast latch **305**, buffer **I66**, inverters **I67** and **I68** and NAND gates **N13** and **N14**. CLKB is coupled to the C input of fast latch **305**. DIN (from a node of a shift register of divider circuits described *supra*) is coupled to the D input of fast latch **305** and to the input of buffer **I66**. The reset of fast latch **305** is coupled to ground and the output of fast latch **305** is coupled to the input of inverter **I67**. BIT1 is coupled to a first input of NAND gate **N14** and the output of inverter **I67** is coupled to a second input of NAND gate **N14**. The output of NAND gate **N14** is coupled to a first input of NAND gate **N13** and the output of inverter **I66** is coupled to a second input of NAND gate **N13**. The output of NAND gate **N13** is coupled to the input of inverter **I68**. The output of inverter **I68** is DOUT, which is a duty cycle corrected version of DIN.

BIT1 applied to NAND gate **N14** prevents duty cycle correction being performed on even divisions of frequency (see TABLE 1 *supra*).

FIG. 7B is a timing diagram of the clock duty cycle correction circuit of FIG. 7A. FIG. 7A utilizes the operation of 5/6 divider **120** of FIG. 3 to illustrate duty cycle correction for a divide by 5 operation. In FIG. 7B, CLK and CLKB have a cycle time of

T, DIN has a cycle time of 5T but is high for a time of 3T and low for a time of 2T, a 60%

duty cycle). This may also be seen by referring to the **P4** node column under Divide by 5 of TABLE III which is 11001 (11100) where each one represents a high DIN signal for one CLKIN cycle T and each 0 represents a low DIN signal for one CLKIN cycle T. DELAYDIN is shifted one half CLKIN time cycle ( $T/2$ ) from DIN. Buffer **I66** has the same delay as the total delay through fast latch **305**, inverter **I67** and NAND gate **N14** so that the output of NAND gate **N14** and the output of buffer **I66** are half a clock CLKIN cycle apart ( $T/2$ ) apart. DOUT, which is the result of NAND gate **N13** of FIG. 7A has a signal high time of  $2.5T$  and a signal low time of  $2.5T$ , and thus a 50% duty cycle. That no correction is needed for a divide by 6 may also be seen referring to the **P4** node column under Divide by 5 of TABLE III which is 110001 (111000).

FIG. 8 is a schematic diagram of a fast latch **310** according to the present invention. Fast latch **310** is exemplary of fast latches **155A**, **155B**, **160A** and **160B** of FIG 2A, of fast latches **175** and **180** of FIG. 2B, of fast latches **200**, **205** and **210** of FIG. 3, of fast latches **230**, **235**, **240**, and **245** of FIG. 4, of fast latches **265**, **270**, **275**, **280** and **285** of FIG. 5 and of fast latch **305** of FIG. 7A. Fast latch **310** includes a NAND stage **315** comprised of PFETs (P-channel field effect transistor) **T1** and **T4** and NFETs (N-channel field effect transistor) **T2**, **T3**, **T5** and **T6**, a clocked inverter stage **320** comprised of PFET **T7** and NFETs **T8** and **T9**, a first inverter stage **325** comprised of a PFET **T10** and an NFET **T11** and a second inverter stage **330** comprised of a PFET **T12** and an NFET **T13**. First inverter stage also includes a reset PFET.

The sources of PFETS **T1**, **T4**, **T7**, **T10** and **T12** are coupled to VCC and the sources of NFETs **T3**, **T6**, **T9** and **T13** and the drain of NFET **T14** are coupled to ground.

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The gates of PFET **T1** and NFETs **T2**, **T5** and **T8** are coupled to the C (clock) input of fast latch **310**. The gates of PFET **T4** and NFETs **T3** and **T6** are coupled to the D (data) input of fast latch **310**. The drains of PFETs **T1** and **T4** and NFETs **T2** and **T5** and the gates of PFET **T7** and NFET **T9** are coupled to a node **P15**. The source of NFET **T8** is coupled to the drain of NFET **T9**. The drains of PFET **T7** and NFET **T8**, the source of PFET **T14** and the gates of PFET **T10** and NFET **T11** are coupled to a node **P16**. The drains of PFET **T10** and NFET **T11** and the gates of PFET **T12** and NFET **T13** are coupled to a node **P17**. The drains of PFET **T12** and NFET **T13** are coupled to the output (Q) of fast latch **310**. RESET is coupled to the gate of NFET **T14** through serially coupled inverters **I69** and **I70**.

In operation, a high on RESET turns on NFET **T14** bringing node **P16** to ground, turning PFET **T10** on bringing node **P17** high and turning NFET **T13** on bringing Q low. When C is low, PFET **T1** turns on precharging node **P15** high and PFET **T7** and NFET **T8** turns off, isolating node **P16** and preserving the state of node **P16**. When C is high a high or low on D will influence the state of node **P15**. Node **P15** will assume the state corresponding to the inverse of D.

If, with C high, D is high NFETs **T3** and **T6** turn on, PFET **T4** turns off and, node **P15** is pulled low. With C high, PFET **T7** turns on, NFET **T9** turns off and node **P16** is pulled high. A high on node **P16** turns on NFET **T11** and turns off PFET **T10** bringing node **P17** low. A low on node **P17** turns on PFET **T12** and turns off NFET **T13** bringing Q high.



If, with C high, D is low NFETs **T3** and **T6** turn off, PFET **T4** turns on and, node **P15** is remains high (the precharge state). With C high, NFET **T9** turns on, PFET **T7** turns off and node **P16** is pulled low. A low on node **P16** turns on PFET **T10** and turns off NFET **11** bringing node **P17** high. A high on node **P17** turns on NFET **T13** and turns off PFET **T12** bringing Q low.

With C high NFET **T8** turns on and node **P16** is determined by the state of node **P15**, a high on node **P15** turning on NFET **T9** and turning off PFET **T7** off bringing node **P16** low and a low on node **P15** turning off NFET **T9** and turning on PFET **T7** bringing node **P16** high. Thus, the state of node **P15** (determined by the state of D) is only transferred to node **P16** when C is high. Since node **P15** is precharge high, transfer of high from **P15** to **P16** is very fast. It should be remembered that the pulse width of C in the frequency divider circuits described *supra* is user defined and it is this width that determines when data transfer between nodes **P15** and **P16** can take place. The latch capture time is defined by equation 2:

$$LCT = 1/(2(CLKINMAXFREQ)) \quad (2)$$

where:

LCT is the latch capture time;

CLKINMAXFREQ = maximum frequency divider circuits can operate on.

FIG. 9 is a schematic a schematic diagram of a frequency divide by 2 frequency divider circuit according to the present invention. This frequency divider does not utilize fast latches as described *supra* and is not a homologue of the divider circuits presented *supra*. In FIG. 9, 2 divider **110** includes a first transistor cascade **335A** comprising

PFETs **T15** and **T16** and NFETs **T17** and **T18** cascaded between power supply VCC and ground and a second transistor cascade **335B** comprising PFETs **T19** and **T20** and NFETs **T21** and **T22** cascaded between VCC and ground; the source of PFET **T15** (**T19**) coupled to VCC, the drain of PFET **T15** (**T19**) coupled to the source of PFET **T16** (**T20**), the drain of PFET **T16** (**T20**) coupled to the drain of NFET **T17** (**T21**) which is node **P18** (**P19**), the source of NFET **T17** (**T21**) coupled to the drain of NFET **T18** (**T22**) and the source of NFET **T17** (**T22**) coupled to ground. A PFET **T23** and an NFET **T24** form an inverter **340**, the source of PFET **T23** coupled to VCC, the drain of PFET **T23** coupled to the drain of NFET **T24** which is node **P20**, the source of NFET **T24** coupled to ground, the gate of PFET **T23** coupled to node **P18** and the gate of NFET **T24** coupled to node **P19**. An inverter **I71** is coupled between node **P20** and a node **P21**. An inverter **I72** is coupled between node **P21** and the CLKOUT2 output of 2 divider **110**.

In FIG. 9, 2 divider **110** also includes a first inverting multiplexer **345A** and a second inverting multiplexer **345B**. The select input of inverting multiplexer **345A** (**345B**) is coupled to RESET2, a first input of the inverting multiplexer is coupled to ground (VCC) and a second input of the inverting multiplexer is coupled to CLKINB (CLKIN). When RESET2 is high, the output of inverting multiplexer **345A** is high (VCC) and the output of inverting multiplexer **345B** is low (ground). When RESET2 is low, the output of inverting multiplexer **345A** (**345B**) is inverted CLKINB (inverted CLKIN). The output of inverting multiplexer **345A** is coupled to the gate of PFETs **T16** and **T19** and an NFET **T25** (node **P22**). The output of inverting multiplexer **345B** is

coupled to the gate of NFETs **T21** and **T18** and a PFET **T26** (node **P23**). The drain of

PFET **T26** and the source of NFET **T25** are coupled to node **P21**. The source of PFET **T26** and the drain of NFET **T25** are coupled together to form a node **P24** hence forming a transmission gate. The gates of PFETs **T15** and **T20** and NFETs **T17** and **T22** are coupled to node **P24**. The 2 divider **110** is completed by a pull down NFET **T25**, the drain of NFET **T27** coupled to node **P21**, the source of NFET **T27** coupled to ground, and the gate of NFET **T27** coupled to RESET2. When RESET 2 is high, NFET **T27** is on and node **P21** is pulled low. With node **P21** low, CLKOUT2 is high and no division occurs.

In operation, when RESET2 is high, node **P21** transitions to 0, node **P22** transitions to 1 and node **P23** transitions to 0, PFETs **T16** and **T20** and NFETs **T18** and **T22** are off, nodes **P18** and **P19** hang, NFET **T25** and PFET **T26** are on and **P21=P24=0**. When RESET2 transitions to 0 and if CLKIN=1 and CLKINB=0 then node **P22=1**, node **P23=0**, PFETs **T16** and **T20** and NFETs **T18** and **T22** are off, nodes **P18** and **P19** hang, nodes **P18** and **P19** hang, NFET **T25** and PFET **T26** are on and **P21=P24=0**. The 2 divider **110** is essentially a divide by 2 state machine four states which transition in the following order.

In state 1, when RESET2 transitions to 0, CLKIN=0 and CLKINB=1, then node **P22** transitions to 0, node **P23** transitions to 1, PFETs **T15**, **T16**, **T19** and **T20** are on, NFETs **T18** and **T22** are on, node **P18=1**, node **P19=1**, NFET **T24** is on, node **P20** transitions to 0, node **P21** transitions to 1, CLKOUT2 transitions to 0, NFET **T25** and PFET **T26** are off so node **P24=0**.

In state 2, when CLKIN transitions to 1 and CLKINB transitions to 0, then node **P24=0**, node **P22** transitions to 1, node **P23** transitions to 0, PFETs **T16** and **T20** are off, NFETs **T18** and **T22** are off, nodes **P18** and **P19** hang at 1, NFET **T24** is on, node **P20=0**, node **P21=1**, CLKOUT2=0, NFET **T25** and PFET **T26** are on so node **P21** transitions to 1 and node **P24** transitions to 1.

In state 3, when CLKIN transitions to 0 and CLKINB transitions to 1, then node **P22** transitions to 0, node **P23** transitions to 1, PFETs **T16** and **T20** are on, NFETs **T18** and **T22** are on, node **P18** transitions to 0, node **P19** transitions to 0, PFET **T23** is on, NFET **T24** is off, node **P20** transitions to 1, node **P21** transitions to 0 and CLKOUT2 transitions to 1, NFET **T25** and PFET **T26** are off so node **P24=0** so node **P24=1** retaining its previous value.

In state 4, when CLKIN transitions to 1 and CLKINB transitions to 0, then node **P22** transitions to 1, node **P23** transitions to 0, PFET **T26** and NFET **T25** are on, nodes **P24** and **P21** are equal, PFETs **T16** and **T20** are off, NFETs **T18** and **T22** are off, nodes **P18** and **P19** hang at 0, PFET **T23** is on, NFET **T24** is off, node **P20=1**, node **P21=0** and CLKOUT2 transitions to 1.

The four states of 2 divider 110 are illustrated in TABLE VI.

TABLE VI

Node P24	CLKIN	CLKOUT 2
0	0	0
0	1	0
1	0	1
1	1	1

The description of the embodiments of the present invention is given above for the understanding of the present invention. It will be understood that the invention is not limited to the particular embodiments described herein, but is capable of various modifications, rearrangements and substitutions as will now become apparent to those skilled in the art without departing from the scope of the invention. Therefore, it is intended that the following claims cover all such modifications and changes as fall within the true spirit and scope of the invention.